**From the Desk of Louis L. Barrett**

**Comments on Proceeding #25-133 – Motion to Dismiss**

## Background

I have been a licensed Amateur Radio operator for 60 years. (In addition I also earned a 1st Class Commercial Radiotelephone license with Ship Radar endorsement along with a 2nd Class Commercial Radiotelegraph license with Ship Radar endorsement.) In addition, I hold a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Montana State University where last fall I was inducted into the "Distinguished Alumni Academy" for the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering at Montana State University. I am a retired Vice President of R&D for the worldwide dialysis medical firm of Fresenius Medical Care. I am also a former Emergency Planner for the City of West Point, Utah.

## Experience

During my time as an Amateur Radio Licensee, I have been involved in many public service activities. The one that stands out the most, however, was when I was called out in 1976 to go from Bozeman, MT to Rexburg, ID when the Teton Dam ruptured sending millions of gallons of water down the Snake River through several cities. Rexburg was hit the hardest. Houses were shifted off their foundations by the water pressure and mobile homes floated into the trees of a local park. There were no communications other than Amateur Radio and one Air Force MARS station. I operated from a church building for nearly a week handling radio messages as well as health and welfare traffic. The two stations were the life blood of communications for a couple of weeks – phones were out. There were no cell phones or internet in those day either.

This is not an isolated incident. Many other disasters since have occurred including hurricanes, tornados and heavy rains and snow storms. Even with today's cell phones and internet, Amateur

Radio is the “go to” long term communications medium. The reason is that Cell Towers are designed for 10% usage per hour and have battery backup trickle charged from commercial mains. In an major emergency, the usage load skyrockets. If the power mains are down, then the battery backup is quickly consumed and the cell towers are no more operative. Therefore, cell communication is out. Further, if one has switched to Voice over IP and the internet goes down, one no longer has a phone either. People with hardwire land lines are in the minority these days – but even they are subject to the battery life of the central switch station.

**Motivations**

In this day and age, everyone is looking for the quickest way to grab the “brass ring” of wealth and prosperity. One of the more common ways this is achieved is through investing in the stock market. Since market changes from minute-to-minute, the first person to get to the trade is often the sole “winner” of an investment or sale. The truth be told, radio wave travel at nearly the speed of light. This is much faster than sending a buy or sell order via the internet. Big business and trading firms are “salivating” over the Amateur Radio spectrum with designs to take it from Amateur Radio operators and put it into self-serving service for faster trades and the spoils that go with that advantage in the markets.

The commission must weight the benefits of self-serving investment people trying to get rich compared to a nearly century old Amateur Radio service (which costs the country and FCC nothing – all volunteer) emergency service for major disasters.

**Recommendation**

To quote a line out of Star Trek movies, “The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.”. This should be slightly modified to, “The potential benefits of Amateur Radio to the many in times

of natural and other disasters outweighs the GREED of the few. As a result, I propose this docket be dropped and cancelled.

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